

DMin Statement of Interest

Composing the Statement of Interest (SOI) is the first step in writing the DMin thesis. The purpose of the SOI is to give the DMin director and the DMin Oversight Committee a sketch of the student's initial research interests so that they may link the student with members of the faculty whose areas of expertise best compliment the student's research interests.

The SOI should be between 400-500 words (not including bibliography). It has three parts. First, it should state the general question or problem that the student would like to explore in the thesis. An example: how a robust theology of realized eschatology might shape a congregation's ministry to the poor of their community. Another example: how leadership roles of laywomen have changed in the years since women have been ordained. This portion should go on to give an account of why this is an area of interest or potentially important for the student's ministry. Second, the SOI should specify the approach or angle the thesis will take in its exploration of the general question. Example: the thesis will examine the realized eschatologies of the Gospel of John, Gregory of Nyssa, and Dorothy Day to provide a model for thinking about our ministry among the poor. Another example: the thesis will compare the changing roles of the United Methodist Women in local congregations and conferences in the Southeastern Jurisdiction and those in the Northeastern Jurisdiction. The SOI's description of this approach should be informed by research in the secondary scholarship on the topic. It also should explain why this approach might be a fruitful angle and why it will help address concerns important to the student's ministry. Finally, the SOI should have a bibliography of no fewer than 5 references (books and articles, preferably from scholarly publications).

Due Date: Monday November 27, 2017 A copy of the SOI should be submitted electronically to Office of the Registrar (academics@div.duke.edu) .

By December 25, the DMin Oversight Committee will contact students with the name of faculty members who have agreed to be their faculty advisor and second reader. During the January term, students can be in touch with their advisor to discuss the SOI and how best to proceed with research.